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1. (Amended) A pallet comprising:

a top deck member having an upper surface, and a lower surface defined by a plurality of first cross-rib members; and

a bottom deck member having an upper portion and a plurality of runners extending downwardly from the upper portion, the upper portion having an upper surface defined by a plurality of second cross-rib members corresponding generally to the first cross-rib members and attached thereto to securely attach the top deck and bottom deck to each other, the runners extending transversely across the pallet in a generally parallel orientation and having a lower surface, the runners further having a plurality of upright members and support members extending between the upright members, wherein the plurality of second cross-rib members extend from the upper surface of the bottom deck to the lower surface of the runners.

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7. (Amended) The pallet of claim 6, wherein at least one of the lower surface of the top deck and the upper surface of the bottom deck have at least one channel formed therein for receiving the at least one reinforcement member therein.

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8. (Amended) A pallet comprising:

a first deck member having an upper surface arranged for receiving a load thereupon, and a lower surface having a first plurality of cross-ribs; and

a second deck member having a horizontally disposed upper portion with a lower surface, and an upper surface defined by a second plurality of cross-ribs corresponding generally to and mating with the first plurality of cross-ribs, the second deck further having a lower portion, the lower portion extending downwardly from the upper portion and defined by a plurality of generally parallel

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runners for supporting the pallet, the runners spaced apart from each other to define openings therebetween, each runner having a plurality of post members and at least one support member extending between the bottom of the post members for interconnecting the posts members the upper portion including at least one reinforced section extending across at least two of the post members.

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17. (Amended) The pallet of claim, wherein one of the first and second mating ribbed surfaces has a locating member projecting therefrom, and the other of the first and second mating ribbed surfaces has a recess formed therein for receiving the locating member therein to aid in aligning the upper and lower decks.

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Please add the following new claim:

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26. (New) The pallet of claim 8 wherein the cross-ribs in the reinforced section are taller than the cross-ribs not in the reinforced section.

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27. (New) The pallet of claim 26 further including a plurality of the reinforced sections extending transversely to the runners.

28. (New) The pallet of claim 27 wherein the upper portion includes a generally planar member from which the second plurality of cross-ribs extend upwardly, the planar member contoured downwardly at the reinforced sections to form elongated channels from which the taller cross-ribs extend.

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29. (New) The pallet of claim 28 wherein the second plurality of cross-ribs, the plurality of runners and the plurality of post members are all integrally molded as one-piece.

30. (New) The pallet of claim 1 wherein the second cross-rib members, the plurality of runners and the plurality of upright members are all integrally molded as one-piece.

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31. (New) The pallet of claim 7 wherein the channel is defined by outer edges of the first cross-rib members or outer edges of the second cross-rib members.

32. (New) The pallet of claim 31 wherein the channel is defined between outer edges of the first cross-rib members and outer edges of the second cross-rib members.

33. (New) The pallet of claim 31 wherein the channel is defined by a series of aligned notches in the first or second cross-rib members.

34. (New) The pallet of claim 33 wherein the upper portion includes a generally planar member from which the plurality of second cross-rib members extend upwardly, the planar member contoured downwardly at the channels from which extend second cross-rib members that are taller than second cross-rib members not at the channels.

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*Am't* 35. (New) The pallet of claim 34 wherein the plurality of second cross-rib members, the plurality of runners and the plurality of upright members are all integrally molded as one-piece.

*Ad Am't* 36. (New) The pallet of claim 17 wherein the recess includes an open end into which the locating member is received and an opposite closed end.

37. (New) A pallet comprising:

a top deck having an upper surface and a lower surface defined by a plurality of first ribs; and

a bottom deck having an upper portion and a plurality of upright members extending downwardly from the upper portion, the upper portion having an upper surface defined by a plurality of second ribs corresponding generally to the first ribs and attached thereto to securely attach the top deck and bottom deck to each other, the upper portion including at least one reinforced section extending between at least two of the upright members, the second ribs in the reinforced section being taller than the second ribs not in the reinforced section.

38. (New) The pallet of claim 37 further including a plurality of the parallel reinforced sections extending at least substantially across the upper surface of the upper portion of the bottom deck.

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*Cont* 39. (New) The pallet of claim 37 wherein the upper portion includes a generally planar member from which the second ribs extend upwardly, the planar member contoured downwardly at the reinforced sections to form elongated channels from which the taller second ribs extend.

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*Cont* 40. (New) The pallet of claim 39 wherein the second ribs, the generally planar member and the plurality of upright members are all integrally molded as one-piece.

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